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DEC 20 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application, with claim 1 having been amended herein.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as having insufficient antecedent basis for the term "said center-side encryption unit." In response, claim 1 has been amended to address this issue. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 1-2, 4, and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,725,276 to Hardjono et al. Claims 3, and 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hardjono. Reconsideration of the claim rejections is requested for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 recites a management key which stores a common key. The common key is encrypted by a public key which is assigned to each router. Once encrypted, the common key is sent to its assigned router. Each router decrypts the transmitted and encrypted common key data by using a secret key assigned to each router. The decrypted data is stored in a storage unit of each router.

As data is transmitted and received between domains, the router of source domain encrypts data by using the stored common key, and adds the common key to encrypted data by use of the public key and transmits this to the destination domain. After receipt the destination domain router decrypts the common key using the router's assigned secret key. The router then uses the decrypted common key to decrypt the data using the decrypted common key. Thus the central management device can transmit and receive data by using the common key without the possibility of there being a breach of security by transmission of the secret key.

In contrast, the Hardjono reference teaches authentication of messages between multicast domains using MAC (Message Authentication Code), for authentication of the source of a

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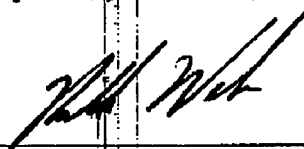
message and to check for falsification of the message. But Hardjomo does not teach the transmission technology between the domains using the secret key of the present invention, without transmission of that key or data containing that key. While validity of a source and presence of falsification can be detected using MAC there remains the possibility that the data could be intercepted by third parties as it is not kept secret. Further, Hardjomo does not teach management of secret transmissions between domains using a central management device.

For at least this reason, independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the relied upon portions of Hardjomo and is allowable. Independent claims 10-16 recite similar or features and are therefore also patentably distinct from Hardjomo. Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable therewith.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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